



EDWARD T. SCHAFER  
GOVERNOR

## STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

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March 1, 2000

Patrick Candrian, Manager  
Cannonball Company  
PO Box 163  
Regent, ND 58650

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for your letter concerning the late pheasant season opening. I also appreciate your insight concerning the use of natural resources and tourism to expand your regions economic base.

In the past, the Game and Fish Department has standardized the opening dates of most season openers. The rationale behind this is primarily based on convenience and service to the public. Having standardized opening dates allows for long range planning and promotion. Most major publications including the already published North Dakota Tourism Guide tentatively list October 14 as the pheasant opener. In addition, it allows for proper alignment of each season opener to provide sportsmen with the ability to participate in varied openers as well as providing enhanced services such as law enforcement by moving it's limited staff to priority areas.

The standardized pheasant opener was moved forward from the third Saturday in October (range Oct. 15 to Oct. 21) to the second Saturday in October (range Oct. 8 to Oct. 14) in 1990. The last time we had a calendar rollover which affected season dates similarly was 1994 (Oct. 8) to 1995 (Oct. 14). Instead of non-resident hunter numbers dropping their numbers actually increased 12.6 percent.

Changing the standardized date to the first Saturday in October will create some user conflicts in future years. Waterfowl seasons and pheasant season would open on the same day in the year 2003, 2004, and 2005. This may actually reduce participation and business activity as the allure of participating in opening weekend activity is a strong motivation for many individuals to participate.

Patrick Candrian

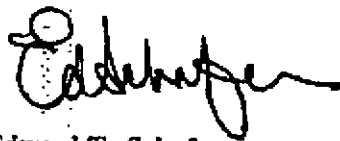
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Positive hunter-landowner relations are in the best interest of this state. There are many landowners who feel that hunting seasons, especially pheasant seasons are too long, resulting in significant impacts. This is evidenced by at least three bills in the last legislative session to address impacts from present levels of hunting activity. Additionally, Game and Fish received a request from Hettinger County for \$39,000.00 to cover additional road damage caused by the increase in hunter traffic.

I can certainly understand your interest in requesting an earlier date; however, I feel that a standardized opening date of October 14 is in the best interest of the entire state, and businesses such as the Cannonball Company.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Schafer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward T. Schafer  
Governor

13:04:33